

Davis is the author of four other books on the Civil War, and he narrates the marches and battles of the First Kentucky with the charm and grace of a seasoned hand. He relies heavily on an invaluable collection of the Orphan Brigade's official papers now housed in the National Archives. Davis also draws frequently upon Captain Thompson's excellent *History of the First Kentucky Brigade* (1868) and *History of the Orphan Brigade* (1898). Both surpass the usual poor quality of Civil War reminiscences. While Davis' assertion that Kentuckians are "perhaps the most independent Americans of them all" (p. 46) is open to debate, few will question the valor of the Orphan Brigade or the quality of this superb unit history.

Southeast Missouri State University, John David Smith
Cape Girardeau

The Development of American Agriculture: A Historical Analysis. By Willard W. Cochrane. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1979. Pp. xii, 464. Suggested readings, maps, tables, figures, illustrations, notes, index. Clothbound, \$25.00; paperbound, \$10.95.)

Willard W. Cochrane is an agricultural economist who, in addition to having served many years as a college teacher, has been an agricultural policy adviser to presidents since the days of Franklin D. Roosevelt. He has also written extensively on a variety of topics related to his field. For all these reasons, any assessment he makes concerning the development of American agriculture is likely to be of some value.

Although billed as a historical analysis, the work is long on analysis and short on history. The discussion of events up to 1900 comprises only the first third of the book and is somewhat facilely done. The narrative here is written in a straightforward, textbook-like manner, and it contributes little new information. References to events indirectly related to the development of agriculture, such as changes in attitudes toward slavery in the territories between 1820 and 1860, are often hasty and the explanations sometimes simplistic.

The valuable material in this book is to be found in the last two-thirds of the text. Dealing with the area of his expertise, Cochrane explores and assesses developments in American agriculture in the twentieth century. With the use of models, charts, and graphs, he also evaluates the effects of current and possible trends in the field.

Cochrane argues effectively that beginning in the 1920s the adoption of new technologies tremendously improved the productivity of American farmland. His analysis indicates, however, that such growth has begun to level off and that perhaps farmers will have to adopt new techniques to increase production in order to maintain present profit levels.

The author's second major topic in his discussion of modern American agriculture concerns the results of the government's farm policy beginning in the 1930s. Although Congress has increasingly reacted to farmers' demands by passing bills providing such aids as price supports and production controls, these programs have not, says Cochrane, solved the farmers' problems. They have only changed the characteristics of those problems. Rising costs and indebtedness have not been eliminated; in general, expenses have increased to the point where a farmer needs more capital than ever before. One of the related but unpredicted effects of federal legislation in the past twenty-five years has been the consolidation of farmland into fewer, larger operations at the expense of the small, family-owned unit.

Cochrane does not make predictions for the future of American agriculture, but he provides much valuable information about the past, as well as models to be used in evaluating current trends. The book as a whole is interesting reading and should prove a helpful resource for those concerned with the evolution of American agriculture and government farm policy.

*Indiana State University,
Terre Haute*

Rebecca A. Shepherd

The Peace Reform in American History. By Charles DeBenedetti. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1980. Pp. xvii, 245. Bibliographical essay, notes, index. \$18.50.)

"There is no reform that Americans have talked of more and done less about than that of world peace," states Charles DeBenedetti in his new book on peace reform (p. xi). Indeed, it is an appropriate statement when one considers the past violence and wars of America, a nation that professes adherence to Christian ideals of love and peace.

The purpose of this book is to survey the history of the peace movement. It is not based on primary documentation but is a smooth synthesis of existing scholarly writing. DeBenedetti defines the peace movement as either an attempt to form ideal